pennsylvania musician

magazine

Vol.40 #474 April 2023

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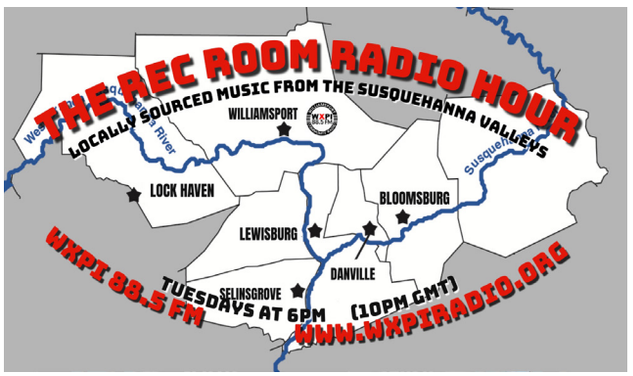

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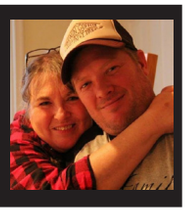
EDITOR RAMBLINGS
By Josh Noll



Welcome to another issue of the PA Musician Magazine! Spring has sprung out of it's little box and we will soon be covered in pollen and wondering what happened to winter. It's been a busy month and the music scene in central PA is gaining some serious speed.

We have some more new advertisers this month, although neither are new to the local music scene. The Sherman's Creek Inn and The Underground LIVE! Troy at the Shermans Creek Inn has been supplying local live music for years now. Along with the Shermansdale location, they have also partnered with Appalachian Harley Davidson, with The Roadhouse pavilion, down on the Carlisle Pike. I have been to the "Creek" many times but if you haven't been there since Troy has redone the place do yourself a favor and check it out. There is no cover charge at the creek for bands and the food and drink prices are some of the best around. I have never left "the Creek" with an empty stomach or wallet and they always have great live music. If you're looking for someplace new to go on a spring drive, head over to the Shermans Creek Inn This month they have Emily's Toybox, Screaming Daisey's, Fell From Zero, Shine Through the Shade and many many more. Along with the music they also have country line dancing and a bunch of other special events. There is always something to do at the Shade and with spring hitting hard you can hang outside in the tent area or head over to the pavilion on the pike. Check out the full schedule in this issue for the full scope.

The Underground LIVE! I know you think I have heard of that place. Yes you have, it's been around for years. formerly known as Gullifty's, Zee's Underground, The Underground Lounge, etc. Yes! they are back again and with New ownership. I cannot count the number of shows I have seen there. Heck I think I even played there, one time with Dad if memory serves me correct. A lot of memories have been made and they are working on making some more. They have supplied yet another location for live music in the HBG area. This month they have the Skyla Burrell Blues Band, Burden of Guilt, Broken Fayth and LeadFoot! A little something for everyone! So if you're wanting to get out and about on the West Shore The Underground LIVE is back in action.

Last weekend I ventured down to JB Lovedrafts Mircopub on Second street for a night of kickass music. I was surprised and happy to see second street starting to gain some action as we walked down from Pine. There were people hanging outside pretending it was Spring, although a little chilly for me they didn't seem to care. Second street is getting some of its vibe back and the hustle and bustle was back on like the early 2000's haha. (I'm getting old). Once inside we checked out the different levels before the bands started and hit up some arcades upstairs. If you've never been in JB's it's like a punk palace for the masses. It's like if your mom let you do anything you wanted to your room as a kid and then you just never left.

The first band was Pale Fang, lots of energy from these guys with the bass player leaping around the stage. They rocked the place and were a perfect start to the evening. Next up was the long awaited local debut of Sunny Ickesburg. Consisting of Ross "The Boss" Kennedy on Bass, Joel "The Man Mole" Horvath on drums, Tyler Epply "The Beast" also on drums? and Sunny "Shawn Pike" Ickesburg himself. So yes there are two drummers that is not a typo. I wasn't sure what to expect but what we got was a dark psychedelic grunge/classic rock jam style mix all wrapped up into a whirlwind of sound. Sunny was slamming on his guitar twisting and banging so much his poor string gave out at one point. that didn't stop him as he grabbed his next victim (a bright orange number) and went right back at it. The dueling drummers was something I wasn't sure about but once they started grooving it was like heavy metal drum camp and each supplied the means to make the songs groove. The Boss kept them all in line with his steady bass beats. It was a musical explosion and the crowd was into it. Greatt job guys!

Blind Accuracy was up next and I always love seeing these guys play. They always bring the energy to the stage and this night was no different. If you want some classic punk in your future then go see the boys in Blind Accuracy. They got the already fired up crowd jumping and singing along. Putting the "professional" in to punk rock, with tight riffs, followed with some clean beats. It's clear Austin and the guys have been putting in the time. My favorite tune of the night was "Wristband" written by the drummer Austin. He has had his share, of dealing with people trying to get in to a show without one. It's a great song and anyone who has ever snuck into a show or has stopped people doing so will love it. Check out the ad on the next page and go see a show! They will be at Tellus 360 on April 15th for the Launch Music Conference. Just make sure you got your wristband!

That's it for this month the keys are on fire and my fingers are smoking. My "boss" is waiting on this article for the last piece of her puzzle. So see you next month PA ! If you want to get in on the action give me a ring 717-636-4203 or email joshnoll@pamusician.net. Talk to you later!

STEEL

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4/7 Racehorse Tavern, Thomasville
4/8 McSherrystown Moose Lodge #720 Mcsherrystown
4/22 Tourist Inn, Hellam
4/29 Yianni's Greenwood Tavern Fayetteville
5/13 Littlestown Eagles , Littlestown
5/26 Stables , Westminster, MD
5/27 Jen-Jen's Rhythm N Brews East Berlin

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4/15 Lancaster PA @ Tellus360 *
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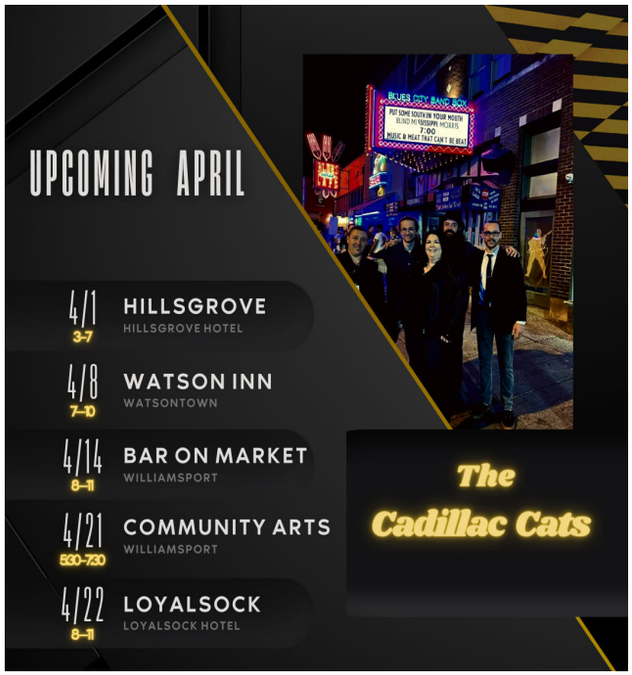
Thurs. 4/6 - Middletown Angler's & Hunter's Assoc, 7-10pm
Fri. 4/7 - Maryland Mallet, Westminster, MD, 7-10pm
Sat. 4/8 - Jigsy's Brewpub, Enola, PA, 6-8pm
Wed. 4/12 - Blue Sky Tavern, Open Mic, 6-9:30pm
Thurs. 4/13 -LLS Campaign, Moe's Bar&Grill, Mech, 5-8pm
Fri. 4/14 - Stoney Creek, Dauphin, PA, 7-9pm
Sat. 4/15 - The Sherwood Inn, New Salem, PA, 1-4pm
Thurs. 4/20 - Sturges Speakeasy, Harrisburg, PA 7-10pm
Fri. 4/21 - Marysville VFW, Marysville, PA 7-9pm
Sat. 4/22 - Bridgewater Public House, York, PA, 7-9pm
Sun. 4/23 - Seth Myers Benefit, Fenderz, 12-2pm
Sun. 4/23- Jen-Jen's Rhythm & Brews, East Berlin, 4-7pm
Wed. 4/26 - Flinchy's, Camp Hill, PA 7-10pm
Thurs. 4/27 - Doyle Hotel, Duncannon, PA 7-10pm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4/8 WATSON INN
WATSONTOWN
7-10
4/14 BAR ON MARKET
WILLIAMSPORT
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4/21 COMMUNITY ARTS
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4/21 Fell From Zero 8-11
4/22 Clockwork 8-11
4/23 Sip & Paint 4-7 (fee charged by host)
4/27 Dueling Pianos 6-9
4/28 Shine Through the Shade
4/29 Midnight Riot 8-11
5/5 Saint Eldridge 8-11
5/6 Stonewood
5/11 Bike Night
5/12 The LeBlancs 8-11
5/13 The Unusual Guests 8-11

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5/ 7 Gun Metal Gray 1-4
5/13 Still Smokin 1-4

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OUT 'n' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

March in like a lion and out like a lamb.. Haha!! I saw so much music this month my head was spinning like a tornado! Music is definitely good for my soul. It's good for me to keep moving and grooving, I definitely don't like to sit still. Most days of the week I can find live music around me somewhere, in some form, and for that I'm truly grateful.

My first night Out and About this month was a busy one, it all started with a trip to Jigsy's in Enola for dinner, one ginormous salad that lasted me 3 meals! After stuffing myself I headed to the Grotto for Nate Myers and the Aces's CD Release Party. They released their album Speakeasy Prophet. This one was bittersweet because two of the songs were recorded with Chad Salvaggio hittin' those skins. It was a packed house, standing room only, and we were all standing super close! The album itself is fantastic! If you like to swing, dance and move to the groove, this album is for you! During the show it was beautiful to see Pete wearing Chad's infamous hat. He was definitely there in spirit, enjoying the show, hanging with us all. Chris Rider was also in the house taking pics, and representing, so I decided to grab my CDs and hit the road.

My next stop of the night was down at Blue Sky Tavern for Devon Beck. She was up from Nashville, giving us all a special treat. I haven't seen Devon in quite a while and I couldn't believe the change in her confidence, and her overall performance. It's awesome seeing her doing what she loves and excelling at it. In Nashville, Devon has been doing a lot of writing, and performing. It's always awesome seeing people do what they love, I'm so glad she is pursuing her dreams and reaching for the sky! You can find out all about Devon and listen to her music online at www.devonbeckofficial.com. During Devon's break Nick Minahan took the stage. Nick has been playing more and more throughout the area. I can't believe I still haven't caught one of his shows, but I'm glad I at least got this little peek. Hopefully our paths cross soon because the couple of songs I did hear sounded great!

The next day started out early with a family trip to Harrisburg's Fire & Ice Festival. It was very chilly, but that didn't stop Colby Dove, the 12-string Wonder of the World, from performing. He was supposed to be in a heated tent, but unfortunately a storm the night before destroyed the tent and the heaters, but Colby knew, the show must go on. We could only stand there for a couple songs because of how cold we were, I felt terrible for leaving Colby out there in the freezing cold. Hopefully he managed to get through his show. It was great hearing him again, and although it was very brief, he sounded great!

Next, it was adventure time with Matt Jameson. He had a show at the Union House in Richland, we left a little early so we had time to stop in at the Fredericksburg Eagle Hotel for Six Bar Break. It was way too long since I heard them playing as a full band, so I'm so glad we were able to catch a bit of their show. A lot of their acoustic shows are usually just played as a duo, but this time we all had a special treat. Six Bar Break has been busy releasing videos they record at their shows of their original songs. I'm not sure what their current camera count is, but at every show they have cameras at every angle, then Ben edits the videos and puts them up on Facebook. I can't imagine how time consuming it is, but they turn out really cool! You can check them out on Facebook, or keep an eye on their happenings at sixbarbreak.com.

Next we headed to the Union House for Matt's debut show in Richland. It was cool to see some people investigated him through his website, mattjamesonacoustic.com, and already had their song requests ready! We really have to update his website because he keeps learning more songs, and it's so much fun when people request songs they want to hear and enjoy. Matt plays such a wide variety of songs there's a little bit on that list for everyone! He also has a complete list of all of his upcoming shows thanks to Bandsintown. When he sits there and books 15 shows on a Sunday, it's nice that he takes the time to immediately put them on Bandsintown so we can all keep track of where he is and what he's up to. There is definitely a buzz happening for Matt, and the more people hear him, the more he's just gonna keep on buzzing! Check out his ad in this issue for all of his April shows! The Union

House has some absolutely delicious food. I ate all of my dinner and then even enjoyed some of Matt's leftover pizza later. Anna was hauling butt behind and in front of the bar, being a server and bartender, but all of her patrons were very patient and everyone seemed to be having a great night. The Union House has live music every Friday and Saturday. Check out their schedule in this issue and plan your next adventurous night on the town.

After Matt's show we still had time to zoom down the street to the Schaefferstown Fire Hall for Vertigo Vultures last set. We had such a blast dancing and singing along! If you haven't caught Vertigo Vultures yet, you really should! They are all such talented musicians and play all of everyone's favorites! According to my FitBit I "danced" 2.3 miles from 12-12:30! HA!

On a Tuesday I headed over to the "live" version of Derek's "livestream". He was leaving that Thursday for his 10 Day Tour with Lyndhurst, Lives Lost, and Observe the 93rd, and he decided to jump on a livestream and raise some tour

funds. It was awesome watching the interwebs for tour updates. They were all over the place, Nashville, Florida, Alabama, Ohio, etc.. Observe the 93rd is planning another mini tour at the end of May. In the meantime, there is a local show you can catch, April 27th at HMAC! Plus Derek is playing a jam packed super exciting amount of acoustic shows. Follow him on Facebook at Derek Henry Acoustic for all of those dates, and check out Observe the 93rd at observethe93rd.com.

After checking out an early Matt Jameson show at Wolf Brewing Company, I headed over to Lovedrafts for Emily's Toybox with my friend Chad. It was awesome to see so many people actually off their butts and dancing! It was refreshing to see Emily's Toybox at a venue where anything goes; the original music, the toilet paper shooter, the lovely hand gestures from Mike.. they were all there, in all their glory! It was the Emily's Toybox we all know and love! The casino shows are fun, but it's hard to hear everyone requesting songs that aren't "casino" appropriate. It was a great show with lots of laughs and jaw dropping fun!

On a Sunday afternoon I swung down to Hershey Vineyards for DMC Duo. I actually caught them twice this month, I also managed to see them at Riverhouse in Middletown. These two are getting quite the following, and they also keep 'Pump'ing out the originals! I heard them play another original that isn't recorded yet.. At least I think it was an original they snuck in their repertoire of very popular covers. Marisa's range is maddening, ya just never know what she's going to belt out next, no matter how tired she is. Both times were great nights of music with

continued on next page...

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OUT & ABOUT continued...

great friends! Don't forget you can stream their 3 original songs on all of your favorite digital platforms, and I heard someday they might even have merch at their shows!

On a Wednesday night I had a nice escape from daily life with a trip to Blue Sky for their open mic hosted by Erica Lyn Everest and Matt Jameson. It was awesome to see Kyle Schnitzer, the lead singer from Vertigo Vultures get on the stage and belt out a couple songs with Matt playing guitar! What an opening! I also saw a new band, Which Way This Way, comprised of Josh Krevsky, Angie Stipe, and Chris Beidelman, definitely worth keeping an eye out for! It was a great night of local talent once again. It's always fun catching local mics because you never know what you're going to see or hear.

On a Thursday night I was just in the mood to chill at Angie's and eat some Jigsy's pizza, but we were enticed by friends to come out to Cold Springs Brewery for some Shea and Ryan. It's awesome to see Cold Springs is back open for the season! We need all the places we get for all of the live music we can possibly hear! Shea and Ryan had the deck packed and had people dancing and clapping along. It always amazes me at all of the die-hard Shea fans, but it doesn't matter where or when, they are there supporting him in all of his music endeavors!

The next night was a crazy, but super fun, St. Patrick's Day! My first stop of the night was down to Hook & Flask in Carlisle for Matt Jameson. Matt went above and beyond to learn some hilarious Irish songs to entertain all of the lucky leprechauns in the audience. He learned some of the special songs with his good friend Hunter Reiner who joined him on guitar for a few of them. You can usually catch Hunter behind the kit with Y2Kids, but he had the night off, so he jumped at the opportunity to join Matt. Between songs there were plenty of toasts and Irish Blessings to be told. From young to old, everyone was having a good time!

My next stop was my first trip to 2nd street in a very long time to check out the new nightclub, Nocturnal, where Midnite Riot was on the stage. Nocturnal is the same building as the Harrisburg Hardware Bar, The Vault, or many other places have existed through the years. It's basically the same, they just spray painted everything black, and took out the stairs so it opens up the room, and the creepy sound guy (Ritt) isn't lingering under the stairs. HA! Midnite Riot had the party hopping in full force. Their song selection is on point, they are playing so many favorite sing-a-long, dance-a-long hits to keep the crowd partying all night long! Check out Midnite Riot's ad in this issue to see where they will be rockin next!

After a rough and super emotional Tuesday, I took the opportunity to go catch Bob Patterson's solo show at the Falls Hotel. The Falls is definitely a fun little hangout, and I love that they have live music on a Tuesday! Bob hasn't played solo in a long time, so he had a gaggle of musician friends there ready to jump in if necessary to help! I was able to hear Bob and Mike Eagan break out in a country song!! That's right… COUNTRY. It was definitely an everything goes, crazy night, but it was awesome to see so many

Bob & Eag at Falls Hotel

people out having a good time on a Tuesday.

After Bob's show I swung into Grotto Pub for the tail end of Nate Myers Tuesday show. It's crazy to believe they've been playing Grotto Pub on Tuesdays for 10 years, minus of course Covid times, but wow, that's impressive. People definitely know where to go on Tuesdays for a good time, the Grotto is always packed! Ya can't ever leave a Nate Myers show without a smile on your face, so it was a perfect way to end this day! If you need a smile on your face, head to Grotto on a Tuesday, you'll be glad you did!

I ended the month with a few Matt Jameson shows: Fenderz in York, on a Wednesday, took a road trip to Tony Locos in Maryland on a Thursday, and finally a trip up the mountain to Shermans Creek Inn. The crowd at Shermans Creek was the craziest I've seen. It was absolutely awesome to see so many people dancing and singing along to Matt's solo show. The energy in that place was bouncing all over the place like a pinball machine! So many requests for everything from country to rock, and even slow songs to snuggle up with their hunnies on the dance floor. Some shows musicians just get treated like background noise, but definitely not at Shermans Creek, that place absolutely loves music and comes out to specifically enjoy the music. It was a truly beautiful sight to see!! Check out Shermans Creek's ad in this issue and check out their full schedule. They are supporting music, and are having a ton of special events. Make sure ya go early for dinner because their food is also delicious, especially their Peanut Butter Pie! Mmmm!!!!!

We unfortunately have to go to press before the 4th Annual CPMAs on March 30th, but I have my dress picked out, I think, and I'm ready for an amazing night with friends, celebrating the local music scene. I hope everyone is ready to get their selfie, because there are gonna be lots of them! Make sure and check out the May Issue with all of our CPMA coverage.

Wow! What a month! Thanks so much to everyone for all of the amazing entertainment! We have one heck of a full issue this month. Check out all of the festivals, shows, venues.. Just turn the page, and plan your next night out on the town! Get out there and Support Local Music! We are getting closer to releasing our all new website, but for now, you're still stuck with my updates at www.pamusician.net. If you see me Out & About, please stop me and say Hi! If you have any words of wisdom, or just fun facts, please email me at RachelRocks@pamusician.net.

NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! Dublin, Ireland band Inhaler, are currently touring America and visited Washington DC's 9:30 Club for two sold-out shows March 13th and 14th. The young group has been gaining momentum since first visiting the USA in 2019 and continues to graduate to larger venues each tour. Inhaler's tour is supporting their second studio album, 'Cuts & Bruises', and the band's more popular songs include, "My Honest Face" and "It Won't Always Be Like This." It's been noted singer, Elijah Hewson, is the son of frontman Bono - and Inhaler carries an eerily sound reminiscent of early U2. My sincere thanks to Tommy Presite and Harrisburg University's Frank Schofield for a fantastic night.

Los Angeles folk rock band, Dawes, visited Harrisburg's XL Live on March 11th as part of Harrisburg University Presents. Their performance captured a high level of musicianship and their sound is derived from artists such as Crosby, Stills, and Nash, Joni Mitchell and Neil Young. Harrisburg University Presents continues to unleash more shows at Harrisburg's XL Live including: Wilder Woods (April 6th), Lucius (April 8th), Joywave (April 18th), Houndmouth (April 20th), Mountain Goats (April 21st), Alec Benjamin (April 29th) and Father John Misty at Harrisburg Forum (April 27th).

March 16th required a visit to Reading, PA for a memorable night titled "An Evening With Anthrophobia" at Nitro Bar. The evening not only celebrated the birthday of singer and founding frontman, Frank Phobia, but also featured many past band members and the several different carnations of the group, Anthrophobia. The band began in the 90s, released their first full length album in 1998, shared the stage with groups like the Ramones and Bad Brains, toured as part of the Vans Warp Tour and continue to play to this very day. Frank Phobia has been the glue and motivation to keep Anthrophobia a continuing moving freight train no matter what paths they cross or encounter. Future shows for Anthrophobia include Swarthmore, PA on April 7th and Pottstown, PA on June 2nd.

Glenn Danzig and Jerry Only will play three shows this summer as The Original Misfits, including a homecoming show for the horror punk icons featuring fellow New Jerseyites The Gaslight Anthem and Fear. In addition to Danzig, the founding frontman, and Only, the long-time bassist, this particular version of the Misfits will also feature long-time lead guitarist Doyle Wolfgang von Frankenstein. The limited run begins June 24th at Tampa, Florida followed by Newark, NJ July 8th and concludes July 15th

continued on next page…

Bob Randall- Nashville Recording artist, multipule award winner, toured with national acts, Seven CD's 5 videos on Youtube.

Al Paul- Recording engineer @ double-A-productions. Former lead guitarist for Youth in Asia & Rockids.

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5/5 Covered Bridge Breahaus Shamokin 7:30–10:30
5/21 Grumpy's Mason Jar Northumberland 1–3 On the patio if weather permits
6/17 Iron Bridge Festival New Cumberland time TBA Full band
7/1 Castlerigg Wine Shop Carlisle 4–7
7/15 Private Party "Troy's Bronco Days" Dornsife
7/23 Jack's Spot Pitman 4–8
8/6 Cortland Music Park Cortland NY 3–5 Full band
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10/7 Private Party

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Fri. Apr 7th

Sat. Apr 8th

Fri. Apr 14th

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Nationals continued.....

in Phoenix, AZ. Danzig claimed their sold-out Madison Square Garden show in 2019 would be the band's last but then played Philadelphia two months later and were featured at Chicago's Riot Fest in 2021 and 2022.

The Cure's "Shows Of A Lost World Tour" will visit North America throughout the spring and summer. The 30-date run features support from The Twilight Sad and features three nights in both Los Angeles and New York City. The Cure visits Philadelphia's Wells Fargo Center on June 24th and Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia, MD on June 25th. The band is fighting to keep ticket prices reasonable and have put strict resale and transferability measures to combat scalpers. Singer, Robert Smith, tweeted he was "sickened by Ticketmaster's unduly high fees" when tickets went on-sale and Ticketmaster responded by refunding fans $10 per ticket.

Rock legend Peter Gabriel announced the first dozen dates of a North American leg of his "i/o: The Tour," with promises more U.S. stops are forthcoming. The two-time Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee will begin his tour in Canada in September followed by a show at Philadelphia's Wells Fargo Center on Sept 16th and NYC Madison Square Garden on Sept 18th. Future dates are promised in many cities including Washington DC and Pittsburgh. Gabriel co-headlined with Sting on the latter's tour in 2016, but this is his first full-fledged solo trek since 2014.

KISS are reaching the "End Of The Road," as the band unveils their final tour dates wrapping with two nights at Madison Square Garden in New York City on December 1st and 2nd. After first announcing their retirement 23 years ago, KISS plans to bring their 50-year career to an end at the same place where it all started. "KISS was born in New York City on 23rd Street, half a century ago," the band said in a statement. "It will be a privilege and honor to finish touring at Madison Square Garden, 10 blocks and 50 years from where we first started." KISS will play Baltimore's CFG Bank Arena November 29th right before the final NYC shows.

Foo Fighters unveil three American shows headline dates after promising they'd come back in 2023. In addition to the numerous festivals including Bonnaroo, Boston Calling, Harley-Davidson Homecoming and more - the band has added headlining shows in New Hampshire, Arkansas and Alabama. Following the death of drummer Taylor Hawkins last year, the band opted to go on a break and played only two tribute shows in the wake of Hawkins death.

APRIL CONCERTS: The Bobby Lees - Phadelphia Kung Fu Necktie Apr 6. Steel - Thomasville Racehorse Tavern Apr 7. The Super High-Tech Jet Fighters - Lancaster Launch Festival Apr 8. The Bobby Lees - Washington DC9 Apr 11. Sleaford Mods - Philadelphia Underground Arts Apr 11. Depeche Mode - NYC Madison Square Garden Apr 14. Houndmouth - Harrisburg XL Live Apr 20. Yung Gravy - York College Apr 21. Father John Misty - Harrisburg Forum Apr 27.

Eric, Frank Phobia & Tina

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4/6 - Derek Henry
4/7 - Shine Through the Shade
4/8 - Wilson/Lucia Duo
4/13 - Charles Lee
4/14 - Love Rocket Acoustic
4/15 - Kenny Shadle
4/19 - Open MIC Night
4/20 - Kandace Farhat
4/21 - Leo DiSanto
4/22 - Keri Edwards
4/27 - Matt Jameson
4/28 - Colton Miller & Jason Etweiler of Forbidden Fruit
4/29 - Colin Alvarez Duo
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Tommy B ENTERTAINMENT Tommy B in 2023

By Rachel Rocks

He's Baaaacckk! Yes, you're right, Tommy was on our cover exactly one year ago, how could you possibly forget that beautiful face! Tommy decided to get back on the cover to tell us about how he did meeting his goals of 2022, and how he's hopefully going to crush his goals again in 2023!

Tommy B started playing guitar in 2008, but didn't start playing out in front of the public until January of 2021. Tommy wasn't really expecting much that first year, but before he knew it, he wound up playing 53 shows! He wasn't even really "ready" to start playing his own shows, but one night he decided to stop in to the Shermans Creek Inn for Colby Dove's open mic, Tommy played 3 songs, and he was hooked! Before he knew it, Troy, from the Shermans Creek Inn was booking him for his 1st show! In 2022, he was all about his "Road to 100 Tour" and I'm thrilled to say he made it, with a whoppin' 103 shows played in 2022. It's still hard for him to believe, but in 2023, he already has 124 shows booked, and the year isn't over yet! His goals are a little different for 2023; this year he is aiming to release 3 albums and make $20k, just with his music and merch! So far he feels he's on the right trajectory. You can help him reach his goal, you can give him a call to get him booked at your venue or private party, 717-462-1300, or even better yet, when you see him out playing a show, throw a couple bucks in his tip jar or pick up some merch or even an album!

That's right, he's already a third of the way to meeting his 3 album goal! Back on February 27th, he released his first six song EP, "B1". In just a little over a month, the response from his first album is way more than he expected. Not only is he selling a bunch of physical copies but people are also streaming it online like crazy! His 2nd Album, "B2" is well on it's way to completion, some recording has already been done, and he's hoping to have it ready for release in June. His good friend, Jake Hebert co-wrote one song on this EP, called "Dream", the chorus of the song is "Dream like you'll never die…" Tommy B says it is by far the best song he's ever created, and he can't wait for the world to hear it! Once "B2" is complete, no need to fear, songs have already been written, recorded and plans have already been made for his third album, "Where's Fluffy?". If everything goes according to plan, Tommy B should have no problem meeting his goals for 2023. Tommy has been recording all of his music at Shaw Ranch Studios with the expert skill and guidance of Steve Shaw. Tommy had some additional help on his upcoming album: Megan Paullet and Alexia Christian have added some vocals, Eric Rider was ripping away on the guitar, and Colby Dove has been slapping that bass! Even a few non musician friends made special appearances on the album. He's so grateful for all of his friends that have been helping and supporting him in every way possible. He definitely couldn't do this alone.

As an added bonus, Tommy has also been working on creating some videos with the help of Cody Myers of Myers Media. They all just got back from an epic bus trip to Kutztown where they performed a show. Cody was along for the ride and got all kinds of great footage. Keep your eye out on Tommy B's facebook page for the video releases.

If you've never had the privilege of seeing Tommy B perform, he could easily be classified as a solo act that sounds like a trio; He plays on a 12-String guitar, while sitting on a cajon, that he plays with a kick pedal, but it's also attached to an effects pedal, so he has a cowbell and a cymbal he can also play with his feet! Meanwhile, he also has special effects on his voice, and he has a looper pedal! There is so much happening all at once, it's overwhelming to watch, I can't imagine trying to play it all, and sing at the same time! Those were the only instruments I saw, but I'm also told he can play the ukulele, bass, omnichord and keyboard. He also plays a large variety of songs and he has an amazing range. He plays everything from Violent Femmes, to Pat Benetar, John Denver, Duran Duran, and even some Sweet Dreams made even sweeter on the looper machine. Tommy has been getting a great response from everywhere he plays.

I know I've talked a lot about Tommy's originals, but he also plays quite a bit of cover music, but he does sneak in a few originals every chance he gets. Tommy considers himself a "selfish" player. He really focuses on songs he loves playing, and he'll do requests when people demand it, but for the most part he likes to stick with his setlist. Even though he considers his setlist a selfish endeavor, he's continually amazed by people that walk up to him after a set and tell him about how much his songs mean to them. Music touches people's souls. The music acts as a catalyst sometimes creating amazing life moments, and if even just for a minute Tommy can help someone reminisce of that special moment in their life, then his purpose is fulfilled.

Being a musician takes up tons of time and energy, and Tommy B wouldn't be able to do what he does without the amazing support from his Girlfriend, Parents, his beautiful Daughter (she is his #1 cheerleader!), all of his friends, and very importantly his fans. He has an overwhelming debt of gratitude to everyone. One person in particular to thank is Troy from Shermans Creek Inn. If it wasn't for giving musicians a place to show off their talent, Tommy might've never got up on stage!

Tommy does have quite a few shows coming up, you can check out his full schedule, and even listen to some music at www.tommybentertainment.com. If you'd like to get Tommy B scheduled at your venue or private party and help him reach his goals, you can give him a call at 717-462-1300, or email: tommybentertainmentandmusic@gmail.com, or you could always send a Messenger Owl!

RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

April showers bring May flowers, or so they say. It's still March as I write this, but it IS raining so I suppose we'll see LOL. March has been a busy month for sure with getting out 7 nights to 4 venues for 12 bands. Some of the bands are old friends, some are new ones, but all made for great nights of music.

My first night out was a short trip down to the Doyle Hotel in Duncannon. This place has great staff, food and drink and a really neat and cozy atmosphere. This evening my buddy Zach King was playing a solo acoustic set. His booming, raspy vocals combined with skilled acoustic guitar work brought out his Americana, Folk and Country styled originals and covers including; 'Quit While I'm Ahead,' '8 Drunken Nights,' and his newly released single 'Another Year, Another Beer.'

Next up was a trip to The Grotto Pub in Enola for Nate Myers & The Aces' cd release of 'Speakeasy Prophet.' Nate's smooth, deep voice and infectious laugh along with the great musicianship of Pete, Chris and John behind him rocked the joint with their great selection of blues originals and covers. Their setlist included some of my fav's, and some of their new songs – Porch Light, Embrace It, Speakeasy Prophet and Little Drop of Sunshine just to mention a few. If you love the blues and you haven't seen Nate and the boys play, you're doing yourself a disservice.

The following night was down to the beautiful Englewood for a show I've been waiting on for a while. Opening up the evening was Hot Wing Jones, a six piece band coming off a seven year hiatus with a rock/jam/country sort of feel to them. Belting out songs like Castaway, Folsom Prison, and Be My World: the guys did a great job warming up The Englewood for the evening. Headlining the evening a band needing no introduction in this area: The Badlees. It turns out that exactly one year before I'd photographed Pete and the guys for my first time. At the time it wasn't really known if that was going to be a sort of one-off performance weekend, or if we were going to be seeing a lot more of the guys. They've been playing a number of shows over the last year with more booked out for 2023 and I have to say that they're just a blast to see, and to photograph. Meeting the guys for a minute or so prior to the show, they welcomed me with open arms...it was very cool just getting a few moments to hang out with them to talk. The Badless have the term stage presence down to an art, bringing a mix of their classic and new originals as well as a few great covers to the stage for a crowd that loves them.

A couple nights later I headed back down to The Englewood for a birthday party like no other. celebrating Pisces birthdays for Crippled But Free members Mike Banks, Travis Warlow, and Grammy Award winning Fred Pellegrini. I didn't get to stay for as long as I'd have liked, but had a blast while I was there hearing Crippled But Free's love for Grateful Dead tunes.

The next week, we headed back down to The Doyle Hotel for dinner and to finally catch a guy that has spent a lot of time in PA Musician, but my schedule hadn't lined up until now to see him. Matt Jameson Acoustic brought his energetic solo acoustic show for a crowd that had folks dancing and even belting out a solid "Yee Yee" at one point LOL. Covering a wide mix of songs like Stuck In The Middle, Can't You See, and Dock Of The Bay: Matt put on a great evening of music.

The following night I went out for St Patrick's night at The Englewood with a few friends, the world renown Inspector B and his wife who are big fans of the headliner and were looking forward to their first time to this beautiful venue. Warming up the stage for the evening was Ford The River, a four piece "Elder Millennial Grumpy Dad Pop-Punk Rock band" (their words, not mine LOL) out of Lancaster. Their rock was fast, had great energy and did a good job of warming up the crowd playing all original songs including a hilarious tune about Chucky Cheese while the video backdrop showed video footage from early 80's punk clubs. Next up was Mighty Joe Castro & The Gravamen, a four piece rockabilly group with a cool classic 50's or 60's

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rock style to them that I had a blast listening to. Headlining the evening was a band I've been wanting to catch for a while: Celtic rock band, The Kilmaine Saints. This seven piece band brought out the bagpipes, accordion, and a multitude of other sounds that generally aren't quick to be thought of in a rock band...but damn did they sound good. They brought a huge energy, impressive stage presence, and a ton of fun for their 14th Kilmaine St Patrick's Day celebration playing originals like "Whiskey, Booze & Faded Tattoos", an incredible cover of House Of The Rising Sun, and ending the night with a fun rendition of "Jump Around." I have to say, they lived up to every expectation that I might have had, and more.

After a short recovery day from the holiday, I trekked down to HMAC in Harrisburg for the first show put on by Effigy Entertainment. These folks put a ton of work into their first show and I have to say they did an awesome job and I can't wait to see future shows with them. Starting out the evening was And Also Bye, a five piece female fronted pop band playing all original songs. This was only their fourth gig, but they played with a lot of power and skill with great vocals that made it hard to believe they're relatively new to the scene. Next up was Dragon Fruit, a three piece punk/pop rock band and the originators of the Fruit Club. I can't tell you about Fruit Club as it's against the rules apparently, but it appears to be a good club to be in. They played a high energy set of infectious, fast paced all original music with some really juicy bass riffs that the crowd really enjoyed. Coming out to the stage third was Burden Of Guilt, a two piece grunge rock band that is very passionate about their music and our music scene. They had a great sound, surprising for just two musicians, and played a great set. Headlining the evening was my buddy Jon Garcia and The Hopeless Romantics. Playing all original Pop-Rock songs born from life experiences, including his newest release "No", JHR played a killer set and finished off the night with style.

My last trip out for the month was a really last minute call made by Wendy & I, visiting our friends up at Iron Vines Winery to finally catch a set by Cass And The Bailout Crew: a Williamsport based original roots rock band "with a touch of 'twang". They're a four piece female fronted roots rock band with some blues and country under-tones lead by powerful and soulful vocals, great guitar riffs, and thumping bass plucking in the background. Playing a number of originals as well as a few covers like X's & O's, Folsum Prison, and awesome versions of White Rabbit and Me & Bobby Mcgee: it made for a great end to this month of music along with a few bottles of some of our favorite wine.

So there it is, my month of music through my eyes and ears. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see; make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me around and say hi. Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it more now than they ever did.

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THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

Did anybody notice how Spring literally bum's-rushed Winter out the door last month? Winter made one last stand during its final two days with a quick snow, wind and drop to freezing temperatures. Spring then shoved Winter out the door with two comparatively balmy days with temperatures into the 60's! Hopefully this is a good omen as live music transitions back outdoors this month. As baseball season begins, singer-songwriter Coltt Winter Lepley helps kick off the Altoona Curve's home season and "Curve Concert Series" on April 6 at People's Natural Gas Field…Other area live music outdoor events include ArtsAltoona Center's Spring Art Market on April 15, the Pennsylvania Maple Festival in Meyersdale during the last two weekends in April, and both the Blair Creators Festival at Altoona's Heritage Plaza and Huntingdon Mayfest on April 29. Welcome back to warmer weather!

John Heller Kilmaine Saints

Much of my March was painted in Irish green as St. Patrick's Day became a month-long celebration on the area live music scene. McGarvey's in Altoona helped kick it off by hosting Harrisburg-based Celtic rock favorites The Kilmaine Saints early last month. Opening the night was Rochester, New York's 1916. Five members strong, 1916 brought a style that mixed Irish-geared punk rock with a touch of psychobilly, delivering constant high energy along the way. Singer and guitarist Billy Herring belted a feisty voice up front, flanked by upright bass player Ryan Hurley, mandolinist Jon Kane, drummer Tony Presutti and accordionist Sam Sarratori. 1916 showed a lively stage presence, with Sam taking his accordion out into the crowd a few times. Some of the group's songs included their blue collar-themed "Ordinary Man" and a version of "Back Home in Derry." The Kilmaine Saints soon followed with their rowdy brand of Celtic rock. Opening with the raucous title track from their most recent album, 2017's "Whiskey Blues & Faded Tattoos," The Kilmaine Saints escalated the party with their mix of hard-hitting Irish and Scottish-toned original songs, pub songs, favorites and a few surprises. Singer Brendan Power immediately brought the party to the crowd with his bold voice and personality up front; flanked by multi-instrumentalists Jon Heller (bass, bagpipes and accordion), Bill Brown (bagpipes, bouzouki and whistle) and Rich Lipski (acoustic guitar, mandolin and banjo), also Gary Eurice on fiddle, Erich Arndt on guitar and Tony Leanza on drums. The Kilmaine Saints played several of their original tunes, including "Painting Paradise Square," "Farewell, Self Esteem," "Long Shot Nag," "Memories Fade Away," "The Whiskey's Calling" and more. From their forthcoming new album "Same Again Tomorrow" (being released April 14), the Saints also did "Off the Wagon," "Undivided" and their version of "House Of The Rising Sun." The group fired off energetic takes on pub favorites like "All For Me Grog" and the sea shanties "Drunken Sailor" and "Haul Away Joe," plus gave a reverent spin to their version of "The Fields of Athenry." As they entered their homestretch, the Saints blasted out the rowdiest thrashing version of "Old Rugged Cross" I have ever heard; setting up for the finish as their bagpipe rendition of "Amazing Grace" transitioned into "Will the Circle Be Unbroken," which escalated into a raucous audience sing-along rocking rendition. This led into the group's fiery anthem "The Saints Are Up!" and their cover of Nathaniel Rateliff and the Night Sweats' "Son Of A Bitch" to end their set. But when the crowd loudly yelled for more, the Kilmaine Saints slammed the lid on the night with their version of House Of Pain's "Jump Around," with members of 1916 jumping on stage to help send the night to a feverish finish. The Kilmaine Saints' first foray onto an Altoona stage was a highly successful one, and they will return to McGarvey's in September.

Billy Herring of 1916

Ed Hofer of Ed N Born

Work duties prevented me from seeing anything except their encore, but I did get to enjoy a few night-ending songs from Chicago Irish rock favorites The Tossers the following weekend at McGarvey's. "The World's Loudest Folk Band," The Tossers entertained a full house with their mixture of Irish-flavored rock and folk original songs and traditional numbers. The group's founder, singer and banjo player T. Dug-

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gins, delivered his distinctive and prominent gruff voice up front, backed by violinist Emily Constantinou, guitarists Mike Pawula and Peter Muschong, whistle player Aaron Duggins and drummer Fred Frey. Before The Tossers took the stage, The Daylight Society, Treaties and The Snipped all helped fire up the large McGarvey's crowd.

For St. Patrick's Day itself, my journey started at Molly's Pub in Altoona, where acoustic husband-and-wife duo Lauren and Joe George entertained an afternoon matinee packed house. This pair lets the audience decide their setlist, as they circulated song lists and fielded requests from the full house. As the crowd enjoyed Irish libations plus the house's Irish stew and bangers & mash, Lauren & Joe sang a wide variety of favorites; including tunes from the Eagles, Billy Joel, John Mellencamp, REO Speedwagon, Amy Winehouse and many more. Lauren showed her vocal power and range with renditions of Pat Benatar's "Hit Me With Your Best Shot," Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive," Heart's "Magic Man" and others. Strumming acoustic guitar, Joe sang lead on a few numbers, including Jethro Tull's "Locomotive Breath." The pair didn't leave out the Irish music, performing the Sinead O'Connor take on Prince's "Nothing Compares 2 U" and the requested Joe-fronted rendition of "Whiskey in the Jar." They also honored requests for Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Simple Man," Bonnie Raitt's "Something to Talk About," Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams" and more. Lauren & Joe kept the house festive and cheering through their performance.

Lauren & Joe

Afterward, I headed a few blocks away to take in Ed N'Born's performance at Levity Brewing Company's downtown Altoona location. Ed Hofer on percussion and Sean "Born" Osborn on acoustic guitar blended their voices on a wide assortment of favorites spanning the 1960s to 2000s. They quickly piqued my attention by breaking out their rendition of Traffic's "John Barleycorn Must Die," and did numbers from Led Zeppelin, Zombies, Tom Petty, Three Doors Down, Black Sabbath, the Moody Blues, Mumford & Son, John Mayer, Oasis and more. Some of their surprises included their take on Britney Spears' "Baby One More Time," plus their mergers of the Beatles' "Come Together" into Phil Collins' "In the Air Tonight," Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" into Bob Dylan/Jimi Hendrix's "All Along the Watchtower" (dubbed "She's Buying a Stairway to Watchtower"), and morphing Kansas' "Dust in the Wind" into Snoop Dogg's "Gin and Juice." Ed N'Born kept the mood relaxed and the music fun.

I then doubled back to Molly's Pub to catch the latter half of Phil McCaulley's performance. Armed with his Telecaster guitar, Phil entertained the nighttime audience with his mix of country, rock and folk numbers. Although many local fans know Phil for his rich voice (especially from his former stint as an Elvis impersonator), Phil knows how to work a guitar as well, delivering fretboard fireworks several times this night. He honored a request for an electric guitar version of "The Star Spangled Banner," showed his bottleneck slide guitar skills on a request for Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Free Bird," and gave the strings a workout on his night-ending rendition of the Allman Brothers' "Jessica." Phil also did numbers from David Allan Coe, Toby Keith, Lee Greenwood, the Eagles and more, and also worked an Irish song into the mix late with Van Morrison's "Wild Night."

My St. Patrick's Day adventure then concluded with a stop at Altoona's 4D's Lounge, where the Giants Of Science were cranking up the party before a busy house. The dance floor was packed as the Giants contingent of singer and guitarist Mick, singer and bassist Johnny 5, singer and keyboardist Scotty B and drummer Steve fired through 1980s and 90s favorites from Soft Cell, Lit, Sublime, Wheatus, Rick Springfield, Chumbawamba, The Killers, Dexy's Midnight Runners, Guns N'Roses, Hootie & the Blowfish, Beastie Boys and more.

I ran into the Giants Of Science again the following night, as they provided half of the musical entertainment during Dauber's 13th Annual St. Patrick's Day Party at the Gallitzin American Legion's Oriental Ballroom. This event – a fundraiser for Gallitzin Fire Company No. 1 – was renamed in honor of its founder, Christopher "Dauber" Cox, a longtime fireman, paramedic and fire chief for the Gallitzin Fire Company. Dauber passed away last August following a valiant battle against cancer, and his memory and legacy live on through this event. Many green-clad celebrants filled the ballroom once the doors opened, and a huge sea of green greeted openers Full Kilt as they took the stage. Fiddler Mandy Passmore-Ott took the spotlight early with the fiddle-driven instrumental opener, "Jameson

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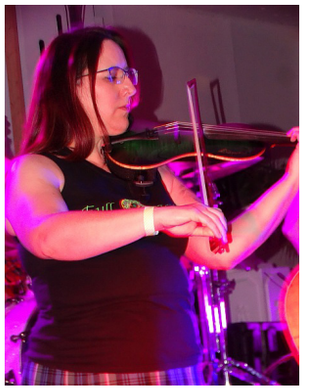
Scotty B of Giants of Science



Mandy Passmore-Ott of Full Kilt

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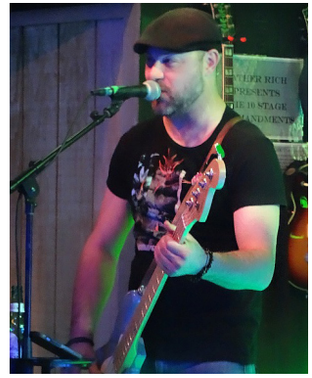
The Professor continued...

Set" – kicking off Full Kilt's two sets of Irish rock favorites, pub and folk songs. Mandy, singer and guitarist Mike Zerbee, bassist and singer Chris Myers and drummer Jake Yarnish did fun Irish pub and folk classics such as "Johnny Jump Up," the accelerating "Mary Mack," the clap-along favorite "Whiskey in the Jar" and more. They also did rocking Irish-flavored favorites such as Dropkick Murphys' "I'm Shipping Up to Boston," Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl" and "Wild Night," and their "Irished-up" versions of Lynyrd (Mc)Skynyrd's "Free Bird" and Charlie (Mc)Daniels' "The Devil Went Down to Dublin, plus the ever-popular sing-along version of Smokie's "Living Next Door to Alice." And on a more serious note, Full Kilt devoted Flogging Molly's ballad "If I Ever Leave This World Alive" in Dauber's memory. The Giants Of Science then fired up the dance party, quickly packing the dance floor with their happy-go-lucky mixture of 1980s and other favorites. The Giants welcomed some audience members up to the stage to sing on a few numbers, plus a djembe-wielding "Professor" to tap out a few beats on the Rolling Stones' "Honky Tonk Women." And as the merriment continued, Mick and the Giants Of Science acknowledged and remembered Dauber several times during their performance, and also thanked the Cambria County community for all the love and support constantly shown to the group over the years. Dauber's 13th annual St. Patrick's Day Party was again a huge success.

Hate Grenade released their new full-length album, "iSociety," in late January, and kicked off a several-state tour in support of the album in late February. The second stop on that tour was in their hometown, Altoona; headlining a hard-hitting triple-bill at McGarvey's. Work duties kept me from seeing the opening sets from State College's Goatsmoker and Clearfield's Endbringer, but I arrived as Hate Grenade pulled the pin on their night-ending set. Singer Jeff Glace, guitarist Chuck Lavera, bassist Donny and drummer Mike Powers unleashed their fusion of nu-metal and rap metal with songs off the new album as well as previous numbers. Opening with the volatile "Hollywood" and "Bind" off the new album, Hate Grenade kept their intensity at a high level, with Jeff generating fast-firing rants and agitated howls, supported by the incendiary musicianship and go-for-broke stage action of his bandmates. Hate Grenade did several other tracks off the new album such as "RX" and "My Hell," also "Vendetta" and the title track from their 2013 debut EP "Reload," and "Burn" from their previous album, "The King Is Dead." Hate Grenade lived up to explosiveness of their name and ignited the good-sized audience this night. Hate Grenade returns to McGarvey's to open for national recording group (hed) PE on April 17.

The original lineup of Altoona metal rockers Fyre reignited to perform their first show in nearly a year at McGarvey's last month, headlining a triple-bill with Suburban Downgrade and Under The Sun. Work duties again kept me from seeing the first two acts. (High school basketball broadcasts at my radio employer are now over for another year; I'll be able to catch full bills again!) Fyre had just begun their set as I arrived; singers Matt and Denice Stoyanoff, lead guitarist Zach Kensinger, rhythm guitarist Sean Stringer, bassist Joe Earnest and drummer Tanner Kaurudar performed original songs from their first two CD's, "III Ghosts" and "2 Keys," along with a cover of Dio's "Holy Diver" and a surprise rendition of Adele's "Rolling in the Deep." Fyre also came bearing gifts this night, tossing belated wrapped Christmas gifts out to audience members through the course of their set.

Altoona's Without Zerb started returning from a several-year hibernation last year, and they played a double-bill with Bad Luck Lover Boys at McGarvey's last month. Bad Luck Lover Boys set the mood for the night with their uptempo brand of original pop-punk, doing a number of songs from their "Letters to Emily" album plus a few covers. Singers and guitarists Chris Diehl and Matt Godissart, singer and bassist Adam Lingenfelter, and drummer Brad Hengst fired up the crowd with their songs "Cory's Hangover" and the Adam-fronted "London Fog" and "Internal Monologue," and also did cover favorites from The Proclaimers, Fountains Of Wayne, the Offspring, Beatles, Violent Femmes and more. Without Zerb then picked up the ball and ran with it, generating their own high-powered party during their two sets. Group namesake Bryan "Zerb" Zerbee on lead vocals, guitarists PJ Kelly and Rik Golden (along with platooning guitar-wielding guest Kirk Robison), bassist Brian Mannarino and drummer Todd Harshbarger roused the house with a wide variety of tunes. Without Zerb kept the tempo lively with favorites from Green Day, R.E.M., Kings Of Leon, Blur, The Clash, Rancid, Bad Religion, Weezer, Ramones, Steve Miller Band, Simple Minds, Johnny Cash and many more. Without Zerb also threw in a few surprises, such as versions of Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance," Cee Lo Green's "Forget You" and a punk-rocking take on the Dixie Chicks' "Goodbye Earl." When the crowd demanded one more song, Without Zerb filled the dance floor with renditions of The Doors' "Roadhouse Blues" and Neil Young's "Rocking in the Free World" to end the night. Zerb and his bandmates were clearly happy to be back on the stage again; Without Zerb returns to McGarvey's on April 21.



Adam Lingenfelter of Bad Luck Lovers

The BSXpress has added a bass player to their roster, as Nick Bayer expands this group into a trio. Nick's first official performance with The BSXpress took place at McGarvey's in late February as the group capped a triple-bill with The Daylight Society and The Buckos. Nick added his bass thunder behind singer/guitarist Brian Walker and drummer Dean Kepner as they rumbled out a volley of hearty punk-rocking original songs and select covers. Many of The BSXpress' songs are short, sweet and to-the-point; so they did quite a few this night – including "Blood Stain," "For You," "Gas Station Chicken Salad," "Lobbyist," "Blood Eagle,"

Denice & Matt Stoyanoff /Fyre

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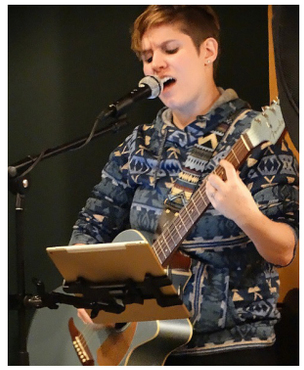
"Crash Down," their multi-speed 'epic' "The Sundog" and more. The group also included two Misfits covers, "Where Eagles Dare" and "One Last Caress," and their aggressive punk-rocking take on the Meat Puppets/Nirvana's "Lake Of Fire."

I also caught up with area singer and songwriter Bree Gearhart in late February as she entertained at the Juniata Brewing Company in Huntingdon. Playing acoustic guitar, Bree was serenading a decent-sized audience as I arrived; mixing up a wide variety of classic and newer rock and pop favorites plus a few original numbers. Singing with her steady rhythmic sense and cadence, plus a potent and expressive voice, Bree took her diverse range of cover material and made it her own. She pulled out numbers from the Gin Blossoms, Goo Goo Dolls, Bryan Adams, Hinder, Sheryl Crow, Alanis Morisette, Fleetwood Mac, Amy Winehouse, Tom Petty and more. She also did a few surprises I was not expecting, such as Billy Idol's "Dancing with Myself," Elvis Presley's "Suspicious Minds," Led Zeppelin's "D'yer Maker," the Rolling Stones' "Beast of Burden" and her finisher, AC/DC's "You Shook Me All Night Long." I didn't catch titles on Bree's original tunes this night, except for a new one in the last set called "I Just Want You to Know." It all sounded good, and Bree drew increasing applause as the night moved along. Bree is currently writing new songs and will be doing more recording toward a new release later this year.

I also witnessed and participated in one of the weekly Tuesday Open Mic nights last month at D'Ottavio's Gran Sasso in Hollidaysburg. Performers this night included the BSXpress doing acoustic punk, Open Mic emcee and singer-songwriter James Grove, Dave Moses, Bob Martin (with djembe beats from a "Professor" in the house), and a fun night-ending jam with several of the above names mixing it up on a few song favorites.

News and notes…The annual "Crazy Fest" Amateur Youth Talent Show" makes its return on April 23 at the Juniata Civic Center in Altoona; started in 1990 by local entertainer Dennie Huber, "Crazy Fest" provided a showcase for area youngsters to demonstrate their performing talents, from singing, dancing and playing instruments to doing magic and much more in front of a friendly and supportive audience. The event was discontinued after Dennie passed away in June, 2016…Los Lobos, Keller Williams' Grateful Grass featuring The Hillbenders, and Gabe Stillman were three of the highlighted performers announced last month for the 2023 edition of the Flood City Music Festival, which happens Aug. 4-5 in and around People's Natural Gas Park near downtown Johnstown…A Celebration of Life and Benefit in memory of Lance Ross will take place on Saturday afternoon, April 22, on the outdoor deck at The Freight Station in Johnstown; bands performing include The Desperadoes, This Indecision and Octane. The event will celebrate and honor Lance, the owner of The Freight Station, who lost his life as a result of an apparent homicide on Feb. 20; the police investigation continues…Pennsylvania's longest-running ukulele festival, the 10th annual Allegheny Ukulele Soiree takes place April 21-23 at the Altoona Grand Hotel in Altoona; some of the top names in ukulele will perform and host workshops during the event, including Danielle Ate The Sandwich, Amber Rozel, Steven Espaniola, Jim Beloff, Mika Kane, Melissa Nannen, Debi Velasco and Mim. Online reservations can be made at www.ukulelesoiree.com... New area classic rockers SaniTee formed recently; the group features several longtime Altoona area musicians, including Jamie Shumac, Vince Gambardella, and Tom Brown with his family, including wife Amy and son Shawn. SaniTee debuts May 20 at the Bellwood Eagles.



Bree Gearhart

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Brian "Zerb" Zerbee of Without Zerb

PA MUSICIAN REVIEWS

By Jim Price

THE BADLEES – THE BADLEES With a reunion performance during their induction into the Central Pennsylvania Music Hall Of Fame in 2021 serving as a catalyst, the original roster of The Badlees began creating music together again, resulting in their new, self-titled album. It only takes a few moments into this album to realize that The Badlees are still masters of their roots rock-based musical universe, and the album's ten tracks show that their collective gifts of songcraft, lyrics and musicality continue to deliver. The group's sound remains rooted in Americana-geared rock, but as with their past output, The Badlees - chief songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Bret Alexander, singer Pete Palladino, bassist Paul Smith, guitarist Jeff Feltenberger and drummer Ron Simasek – incorporate enough instrumental, vocal and songwriting nuances into the mix to keep it all engaging and interesting. The album's opening track, "1,000 Melodies Without Words," seems to wel-

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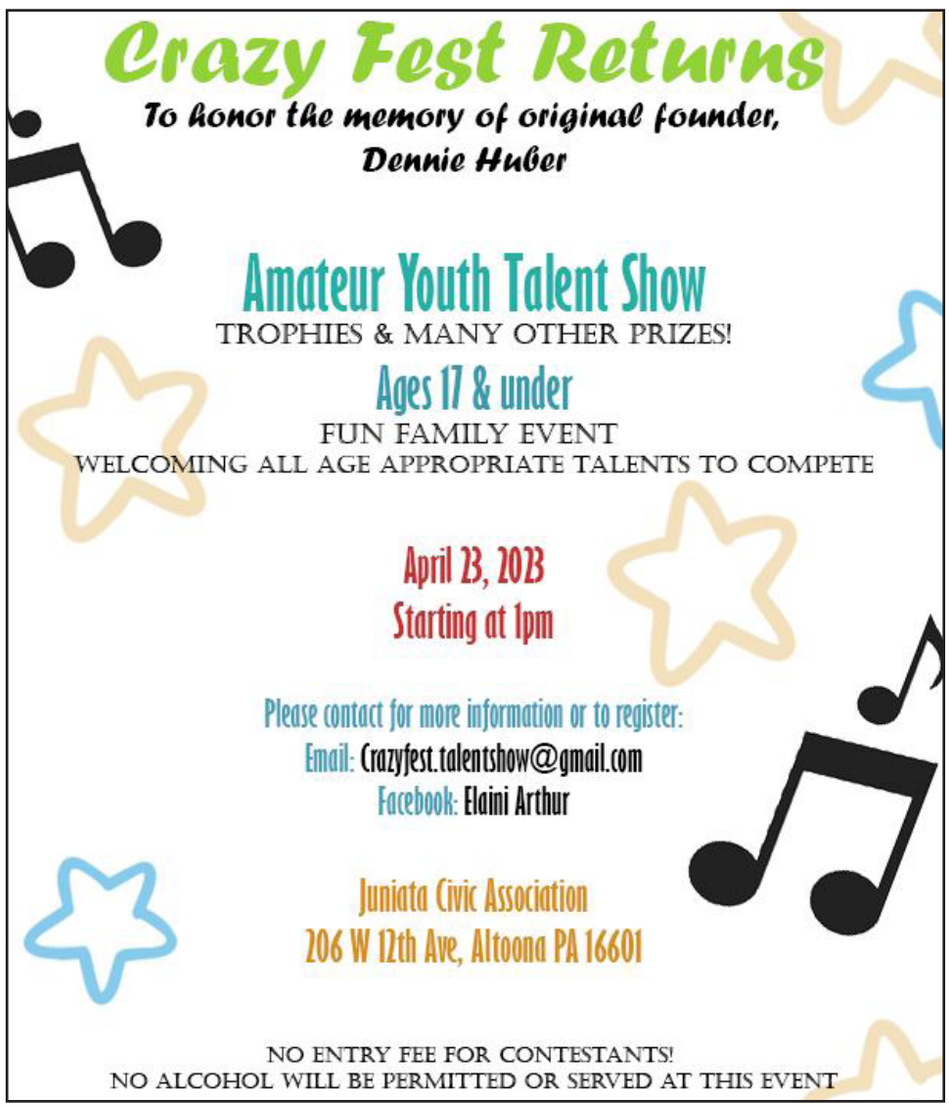
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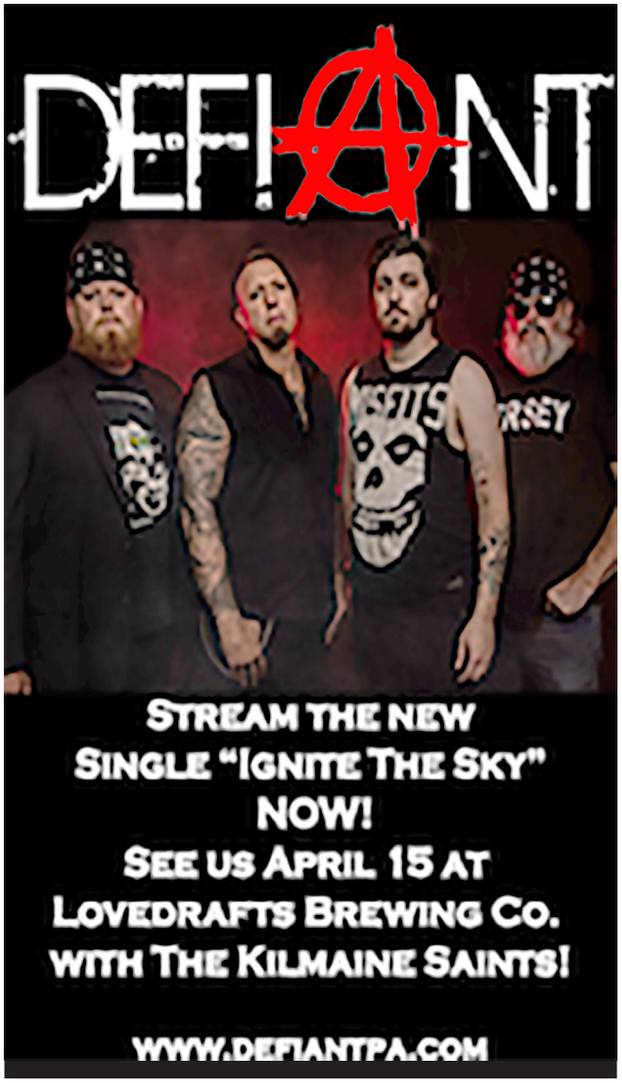

PA REVIEWS continued....

come the return of the creative process as they "navigate the static" of that logjam of wordless melodies to generate something new. The upbeat "Faces Under Glass" contemplates past family members and measuring up to their legacy, while the harder-edged "What I've Wasted" reflects on spent time and lost moments. Guest Nyke Van Wyk's violin adds a rustic charm to the folksy "Leaving Here," as well as the more serious-toned "Tear It Down." Written by the group's longtime collaborator Mike Naydock, "Nasty Alcoholic" mixes country twang with a touch of barroom wisdom; while the mandolin and violin-flavored album-closer "My Friends" escalates toward a pub-like sing-along homestretch. This set is as strong and intriguing as The Badlees have ever sounded. Pete, Bret and Jeff's voices sound seasoned, sharp and expressive; and the arrangements and mixture of instruments maintain's the album's freshness from start to end. The songs are catchy, the lyrics are engaging and insightful, and this group sounds like they have never gone away. The Badlees is a welcome return, and should provide a satisfying listen to longtime Badlees fans and newbies alike. (The album can be obtained through The Badlees' website, www.badlees.com, as well as through online streaming platforms.)

CODY TYLER & GYPSY CONVOY – *STARE YOUR DEMONS DOWN* The catch phrase that bandleader Cody Tyler uses to describe his music - "black dirt country" - references the coal-tinged dirt found in rural east-central PA and Cody's unique fusion of outlaw country, honky tonk and southern rock elements, demonstrated on his first full-length album with his group Gypsy Convoy, Stare Your Demons Down. Forged after discovering his late grandfather's record collection of outlaw country from Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Johnny Cash (the theme of the song "Drop That Needle [Grandad's Vinyl]"), Cody's musical style blends those influences with southern and even swamp rock flavors over the album's ten tracks. Along with playing guitar, Cody displays a bold and rugged voice up front, flanked by bassist Kenny Peffley, drummer Kenneth Mettam and keyboardist Lenny Casper. Setting the album's tone is the opening number, "One to the Heart," a robust country-rocker about conquering apprehensions and going for the gusto in life, with horn accompaniment to give it extra spunk. Cody sings of dedication to his music and his love on the tranquil "Still That Never Goes Dry," before musing about a moonshine misadventure on the darker and swampy "Playin' with Firewater." Cody spins a tale of coal-hauling railroad life on "Fate I Can't Outrun," and sings introspective words about trying to better himself on "Blessed Life." Driving honky tonk fuels "Cut the Bull," Cody's rant about real country vs. "twangy pop," as well as his ode to a hunting foray into the northern PA Wilds, "Ramble in the Hills." He salutes past and present family members who have served and are serving the country on the patriotic and traditional country-toned "Eagle Tattoo," and ends the album with the hard-edged tribute to the bar-gigging lifestyle, "Fold Me Up, Haul Me Home." These songs all connect with well-crafted melodies and relatable words, all driven home by Cody's emphatic voice and swagger. His band delivers a solid and tight foundation behind the songs, packing the punch or gently guiding the melody as needed. The overall production sounds big and full, giving Cody's voice prominence and clarity, and the instruments balance and crispness. Stare Your Demons Down is a strong first offering from Cody Tyler & Gypsy Convoy, and provides an exciting listen. (The album can be obtained through Cody's website, www.codytylermusic.com, as well as online streaming platforms.)

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FOR SALE: Zickos 70's Drum set crystal clear 14" 18" toms 2 22" kicks very good cond. covers extra $1000 call 814-243-6469

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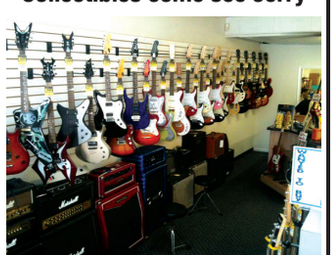

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Musicians wanted: Mechanicsburg guitarist/lead singer/songwriter seeking percussionist, guitarist & keyboard players for original/cover Tom Petty, XPN, Indie Acoustic Pop/Rock influenced band 717-886-2910

WANTED: Harrisburg's band VENT is looking for a bass/backing vocals. Rock/Metal covers.Original recording project included for the right fit. Call Dave 717-525-0014.

WANTED: Keyboard player wanted for established working band.Classic/Southern rock. Berks/ Lancaster county and beyond. drummingmad@yahoo.com

WANTED: (c)Turd. original tuned down low "C" metal seeks double kick drummer, bass player access to A-1 recording studio in Delaware serious inquiries only no hangups, CD's available Altoona area call 443-310-1325

Lyricist seeking musicians: to write songs with." Email mikeefacc@gmail.com Phone 814- 955-0592. Michael Facciani 730 Bloom St Apt.6g Johnstown, PA 15902

WANTED: vocalist, drums, bass player 80's hair band covering Roxx Gang Dangerous Toys etc, details call 717-542-3158

WANTED MUSICIANS: 36 year old Christian Male singer looking for musicians to form a hard rock/heavy metal Christian band email jdl3dcreations@gmail.com cell 814-225-7055

WANTED: Looking for a Drummer for Covers / Originals band in Limerick / Pottstown. - Contact Cole 610-355-5922.

WANTED: Lead Guitarist / Acoustic player with some experience to play with band and do acoustic with bass player with good vocals or just do one project. Late 70's to today's Rock. Reading / Berks County Area. Call; 610-607-3516

WANTED: Progressive, blackened, death metal band Gryla is seeking a guitarist. EP being released soon. Currently all female, but we're open to anyone. Contact Shannon 717-300-9269

WANTED: Experienced Accoustic Lead Guitarist With Vocals For Accoustic Duo With Talented Bass Player With Strong Vocals Rehearse Weekly/ Classic Modern Rock,Reading Area 610-607-3516.

WANTED: Dedicated Experienced Talented Bass Player With Strong Vocals Looking To Form Or Join 80's Rock Band. Have Practice Place. Is Anyone Out There?! Reading Area Call 610-607-3516

WANTED MUSICIANS: 17 year old drummer looking for musicians or band to rehearse with for future gigs. Influences: Slipknot, Motionless in White, Van Halen, FFDP, etc. 570-241-3539.

WANTED MUSICIAN: Near working 80's metal band seeks seasoned 2nd Lead Guitar. Must have pro equipment, wild personality, & practice Sunday afternoons in Mechanicsburg. Text 717-683-8625

MUSICIANS AVAILABLE:

AVAILABLE: Seasoned pianist seeking female vocalist, ballads, lite jazz to pursue performance opportunities outdoor festivals, special events, promos. Blair county, Huntingdon County areas. Steve: sgjpianist@gmail.com

AVAILABLE:Billboard charting singer Miss Vicky is available to collaborate on recording projects. Cover songs are welcomed we CAN clear them. Call or Text 917-892-0945

AVAILABLE: Experienced bass player with good strong vocals looking for classic, modern rock, variety band. No drugs please. No 50's or 60's music. Have good gear. Dedicated..Reading, Berks County Area call 610-607-3516

AVAILABLE: Picker/singer/lyricist available for co-writes, live gigs. Baritone vocals, 6 & 12 string guitars and harmonicas. Lancaster city. 610-334-8630

AVAILABLE" Professional drummer 40+ years, Covers, originals. Hard rock, classic rock, dance, years of experience both live and studio. Erik @ 814-381-5312. Altoona Area

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